

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5438**

1. Opening of Meeting:

The Appeals Board convened at 11:00 a.m., December 10, 2003, in San Diego, with Chair Cynthia K. Thornton presiding.

2. Roll Call: Members

Present

Absent

Cynthia K. Thornton, Chair

X

Miller Medearis, Vice Chair

X

Jack Cox

X

Don L. Novey

x (via phone)

Virginia Strom-Martin

X

Steven R. Maviglio

X

Ann M. Richardson

X

3. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the November Board meeting were approved.

4. Chair's Report:

Chair Thornton welcomed the two new Board members, Steven R. Maviglio and Ann M. Richardson. The other Board members and Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana joined in this welcome.

Chair Thornton reported that she met last month with the Chair of the Worker's Compensation Appeals Board to discuss the CUIAB's E-file system and other possible ways to achieve cost savings. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana and the Chair will meet again in January 2004 to continue cost saving ideas, including the possibility of combining some resources.

Chair Thornton advised that the new administration has issued a very restrictive travel edict, but with an exception for essential travel, which should apply to much of the Board's travel.

Lastly, Chair Thornton visited the Pasadena Office of Appeals yesterday.

5. Chief Administrative Law Judge/Executive Director's Report:

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana reported the new administration has issued an Executive Order restricting most new hires or promotions. The Board will seek exemptions as appropriate. On a more positive note, the new administration has recognized the distinction attendant federally funded programs.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana also reported on a San Jose pilot project that allows UI claimants to engage in an on-the-job training program with the Board, providing them with clerical and data entry skills to reenter the job market while still receiving their benefits. This new program was developed by Lois Mannix of P&PM.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana was also very pleased to announce that he and Chair Thornton successfully negotiated an annual \$5,000.00 bonus for the PALJ's, something they richly deserve.

6. Branch Reports:

a. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana reported that the field has been dealing with three large trade disputes, which are always complex and consume considerable staff resources: Pacific Maritime Association (4,000 claimants), Grocers (70,000 claimants), and Mass Transit Authority (7,000 claimants). At the 11th hour the employer's appeal was withdrawn in the PMA case. The CUIAB will still be paid for the time that has been put into preparing for the PMA hearings.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Arcellana also reported on the following events: the PALJ meeting two weeks ago; an LSS II meeting scheduled for the following week; and the retirement of Inglewood LSS II Barbara Emerson and Appellate Operations LSS II Marie Martinez.

Lastly, workload in the field dropped off last month due to the start of the holiday season, with 20,000 registrations in November as compared to 28,000 in October, and 20,000 dispositions vs. 26,000 in October. There are still 5 1/2 weeks of un-calendared cases remaining however.

b. Deputy Chief ALJ Julie Krebs, Appellate Operations Branch, reported that Appellate Operations also had fewer cases as a result of the holidays, which reduced the number of actual workdays from 22 (October) to 17 (November). Appellate Operations registered 1,511 cases in November, and disposed of 1,257. All three time lapse measures in November were met. Appellate staff registered over 300 cases on a Saturday by using an assembly line model. Thanks was given to P&PM for providing the concept with its registration strike force team.

c. Deputy Director Pam Boston noted the approval at the last Board meeting of the Strategic Plan. In furtherance of that plan, security assessments have been conducted in 32 of the 38 hearing facilities to date.

The ALJ examination was conducted on November 22, with 69 candidates competing.

d. Deputy Director Mary Walton-Simons reported California will be participating in a pilot program for a new time lapse standard that the federal Department of Labor is considering. In the place of 30/45/90 day time lapse performance measures, a

new case aging standard will be imposed. Under the new standard, the age of all undecided cases, which includes all open UI cases, except multi cases, will be averaged. This is a “first in, first out” concept. California will still be held to existing time lapse standards during the pilot, scheduled to run from January through September, 2004.

Deputy Director Walton-Simons further reported that P&PM has been providing the field with clerical assistance in the Pacific Maritime Dispute.

Lastly, Deputy Director Walton-Simons advised that Lois Mannix has provided supervisor training to the San Diego and Oxnard offices.

8. Chief Counsel’s Report:

Chief Counsel Ralph Hilton reported that the Board members averaged over 400 cases in November. In litigation, six new mandate cases were filed last month, and three cases were closed, all of which affirmed the Board’s decisions.

9. New Business

- a. Budget Report—Renee Erwin, Budget Officer

See Attachment A.

- b. Quality Review Training—Randy Petersen

See Attachment B.

10. Public Comment:

None presented.

11. Closed Session:

The regularly scheduled Board meeting adjourned, and the Board entered into closed session. No votes were taken on any matters in closed session.